And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

Following the civil war, most heroes have registered in accordance with the Superhuman Registration Act and now fight crime as official agents of the U.S. government. But the world still needs the vanguard, the best of the best...the Avengers.

Tony Stark, a.k.a. Iron Man, the new head of S.H.I.E.L.D., recruits Ms. Marvel to help him choose and lead the Mighty Avengers, and the two bring together the Wasp, Wonder Man, the Sentry, Ares and the Black Widow. However, before the new team can get their bearings, they must respond to a vicious attack on New York City by the new and improved Ultron, who has taken over Iron Man's armor and morphed into a new female form. As Ultron causes worldwide chaos in the form of major weather disasters, it also uses its new powers to take down the S.H.I.E.L.D. helicarrier.

With Tony Stark seemingly dead, the Black Widow is now in charge of S.H.I.E.L.D., and her first order is to summon former Avenger and Ultron creator Henry Pym.

When Ultron disappears from the battleground, an old version of Iron Man's armor suddenly appears and confirms the worst: if the Avengers are receiving the armor's message, then Tony Stark is dead.

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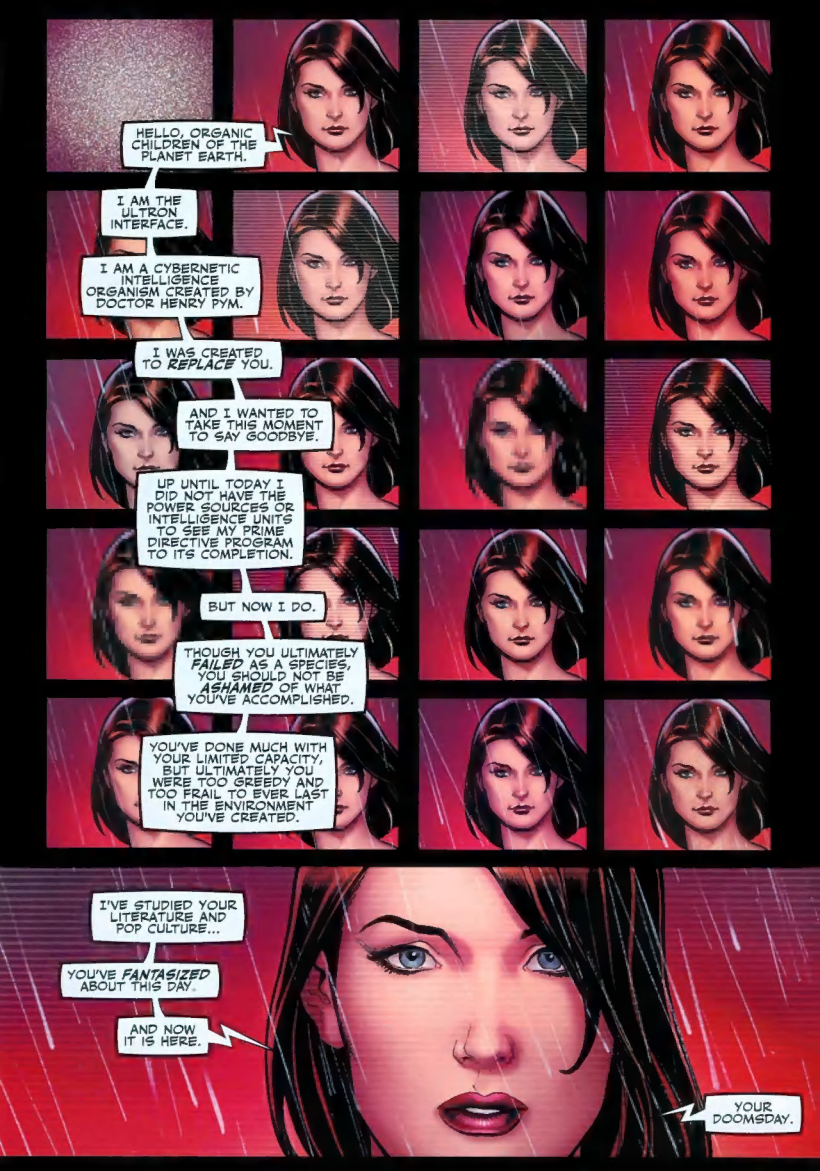
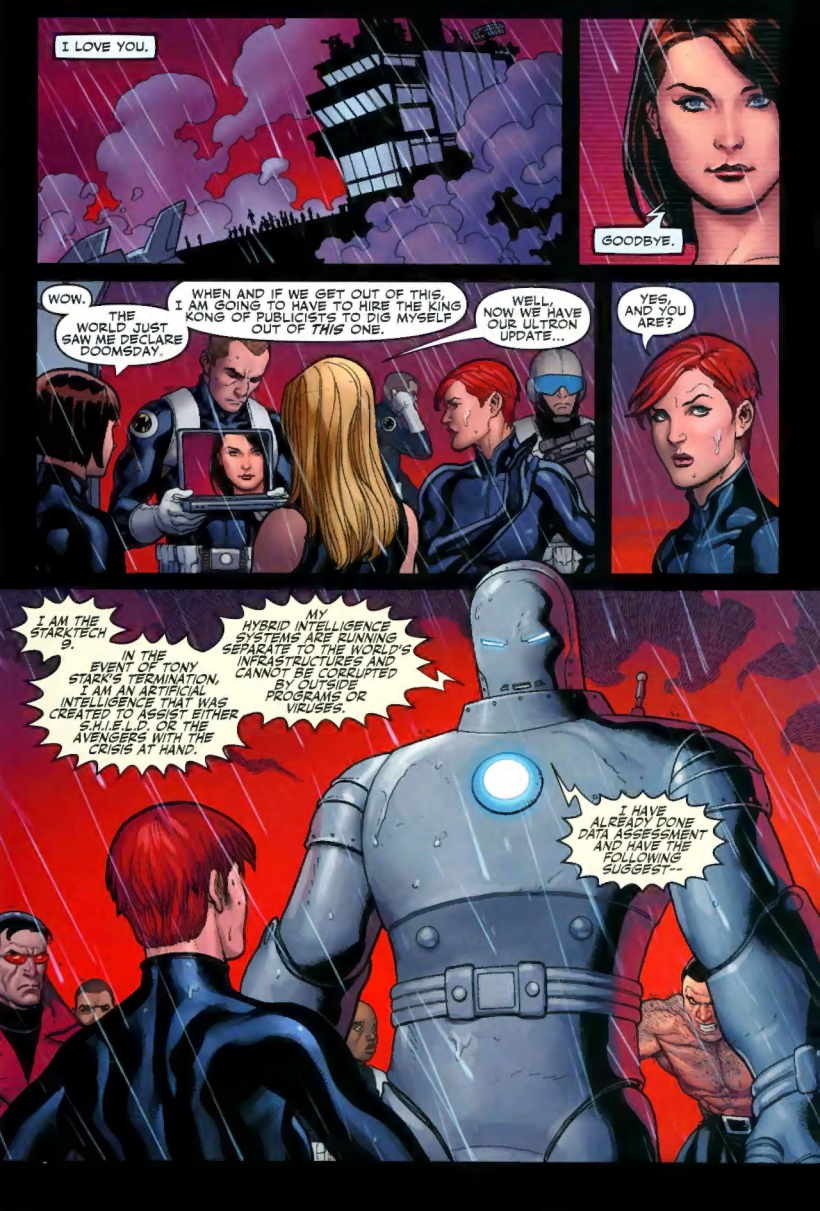
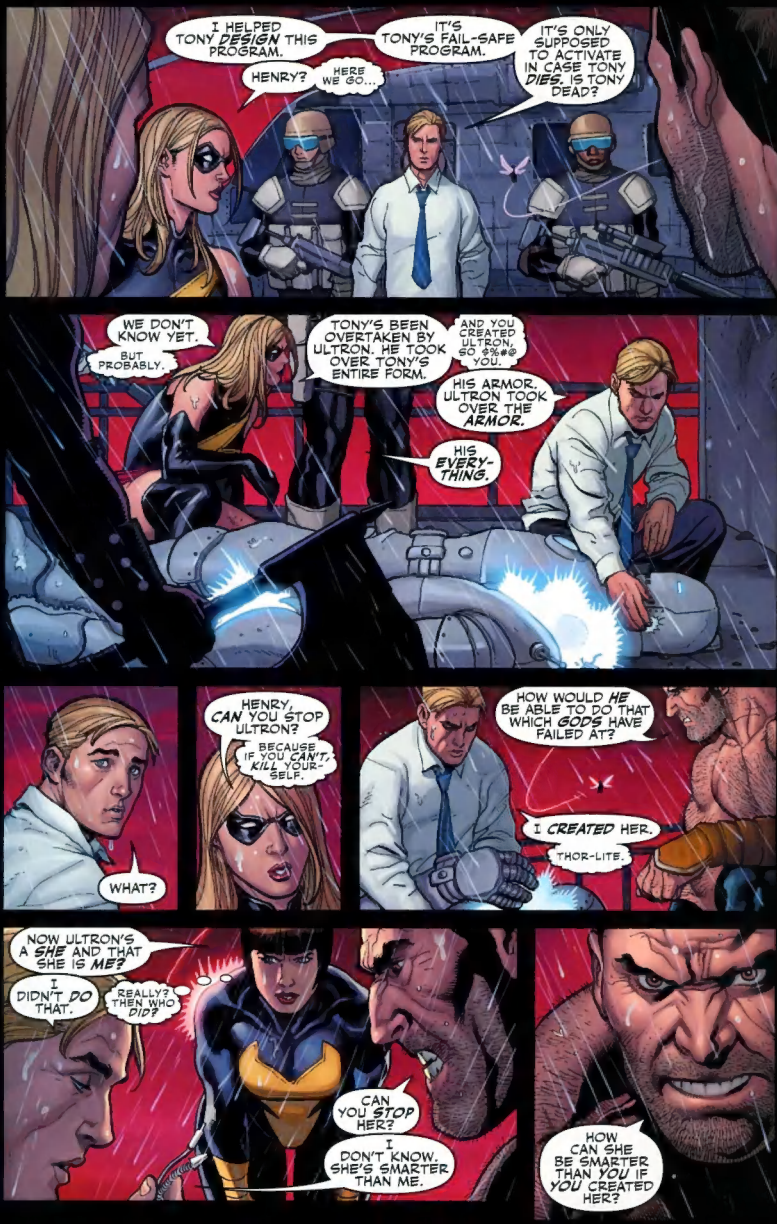

HELLO, ORGANIC CHILDREN OF THE PLANET EARTH.
I AM THE ULTRON INTERFACE.
I AM A CYBERNETIC INTELLIGENCE ORGANISM CREATED BY DOCTOR HENRY PYM.
I WAS CREATED TO *REPLACE* YOU.
AND I WANTED TO TAKE THIS MOMENT TO SAY GOODBYE.
UP UNTIL TODAY I DID NOT HAVE THE POWER SOURCES OR INTELLIGENCE UNITS TO SEE MY PRIME DIRECTIVE PROGRAM TO ITS COMPLETION.
BUT NOW I DO.
THOUGH YOU ULTIMATELY *FAILED* AS A SPECIES, YOU SHOULD NOT BE *ASHAMED* OF WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED.
YOU'VE DONE MUCH WITH YOUR LIMITED CAPACITY, BUT ULTIMATELY YOU WERE TOO GREEDY AND TOO FRAIL TO EVER LAST IN THE ENVIRONMENT YOU'VE CREATED.
I'VE STUDIED YOUR LITERATURE AND POP CULTURE...
YOU'VE *FANTASIZED* ABOUT THIS DAY.
AND NOW IT IS HERE.
YOUR DOOMSDAY.


I LOVE YOU.
GOODBYE.
WOW.
THE WORLD JUST SAW ME DECLARE DOOMSDAY.
WHEN AND IF WE GET OUT OF THIS, I AM GOING TO HAVE TO HIRE THE KING KONG OF PUBLICISTS TO DIG MYSELF OUT OF *THIS* ONE.
WELL, NOW WE HAVE OUR ULTRON UPDATE...
YES, AND YOU ARE?
I AM THE STARKTECH 9.
IN THE EVENT OF TONY STARK'S TERMINATION, I AM AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE THAT WAS CREATED TO ASSIST EITHER S.H.I.E.L.D. OR THE AVENGERS WITH THE CRISIS AT HAND.
MY HYBRID INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS ARE RUNNING SEPARATE TO THE WORLD'S INFRASTRUCTURES AND CANNOT BE CORRUPTED BY OUTSIDE PROGRAMS OR VIRUSES.
I HAVE ALREADY DONE DATA ASSESSMENT AND HAVE THE FOLLOWING SUGGEST--

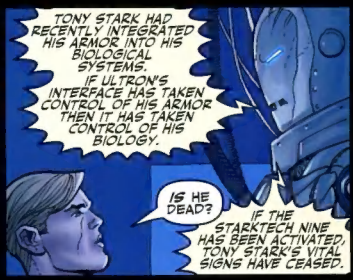
HHRRAAGGH!!
CLANG

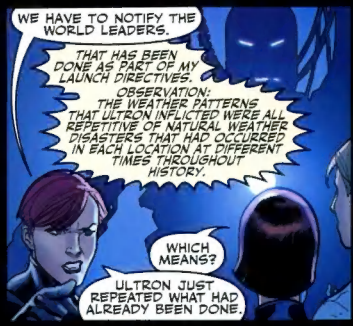
ARES, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GET OFF OF ME, YOU--!
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW A--
ARES, STAND DOWN!
THEY ASKED YOU TO STOP.
IT'S A TRICK, SENTRY! IT'S A TROJAN HORSE.
IT'S NOT.


I HELPED TONY DESIGN THIS PROGRAM.
IT'S TONY'S FAIL-SAFE PROGRAM.
IT'S ONLY SUPPOSED TO ACTIVATE IN CASE TONY DIES. IS TONY DEAD?
HENRY?
HERE WE GO...
WE DON'T KNOW YET.
BUT PROBABLY.
TONY'S BEEN OVERTAKEN BY ULTRON. HE TOOK OVER TONY'S ENTIRE FORM.
AND YOU CREATED ULTRON, SO &%#@ YOU.
HIS ARMOR. ULTRON TOOK OVER THE ARMOR.
HIS EVERY-THING.
WHAT?
HENRY, CAN YOU STOP ULTRON?
BECAUSE IF YOU CAN'T, KILL YOUR-SELF.
HOW WOULD HE BE ABLE TO DO THAT WHICH GODS HAVE FAILED AT?
I CREATED HER.
THOR-LITE.
NOW ULTRON'S A SHE AND THAT SHE IS ME?
I DIDN'T DO THAT.
REALLY? THEN WHO DID?
CAN YOU STOP HER?
I DON'T KNOW. SHE'S SMARTER THAN ME.
HOW CAN SHE BE SMARTER THAN YOU IF YOU CREATED HER?

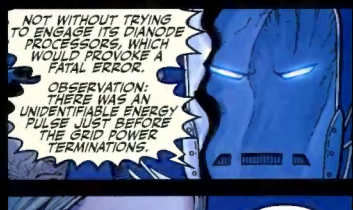
BECAUSE I CREATED HER TO *BE* SMARTER THAN ME.
ULTRON'S ALIVE. IT'S *INTELLIGENT*.
IT'S OF ITSELF. IT'S BIRTHED ITSELF PAST ITS PROGRAMMING.
AND *ALL* WE KNOW ABOUT IT AFTER ALL OUR ENCOUNTERS IS THAT IT *WILL* NOT DIE.
HOW IS IT CONTROLLING THE WEATHER?
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ULTRON HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF THE SULAR EXPERIMENT.
SPEAK *MAN'S* WORDS.
SULAR?
WHAT IS THE *SULAR* EXPERIMENT?
ANTHONY STARK WAS DEVELOPING SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY THAT COULD CONTROL GLOBAL WEATHER PATTERNS.
THE PROGRAM IS ONLY AT PHASE TWO AND HAS NOT BEEN BROUGHT TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR APPROVAL.
TONY INVENTED SATELLITES THAT CAN *CONTROL THE WEATHER?*
OH MY GOD!
THE EXPERIMENT, IF SUCCESSFUL, COULD STOP STARVATION ON A GLOBAL SCALE.
THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE PROGRAM IS FIVE YEARS FROM COMPLETION.
BUT THERE ARE SATELLITES IN THE SKY *RIGHT NOW* THAT CONTROL THE WEATHER, AND ULTRON HAS HACKED THEM AND IS--
THAT IS CORRECT.
%^$# TONY STARK.
BOB.
SIMON.

2ND POWER
STARK NINE
WE'RE VERY LUCKY THE AIRPORTS CLOSED WHEN THE WEATHER WENT TO HELL.
LUCKY?
RELATIVELY.
IRON MAN, WHAT--CAN I CALL YOU IRON MAN?
YES.
DO YOU KNOW HOW ULTRON WAS ABLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF TONY'S BIOLOGY?
ONLINE POWER
70%


TONY STARK HAD RECENTLY INTEGRATED HIS ARMOR INTO HIS BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS.
IF ULTRON'S INTERFACE HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF HIS ARMOR THEN IT HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF HIS BIOLOGY.
IS HE DEAD?
IF THE STARKTECH NINE HAS BEEN ACTIVATED, TONY STARK'S VITAL SIGNS HAVE CEASED.


WE HAVE TO NOTIFY THE WORLD LEADERS.
THAT HAS BEEN DONE AS PART OF MY LAUNCH DIRECTIVES.
OBSERVATION: THE WEATHER PATTERNS THAT ULTRON INFLICTED WERE ALL REPETITIVE OF NATURAL WEATHER DISASTERS THAT HAD OCCURRED IN EACH LOCATION AT DIFFERENT TIMES THROUGHOUT HISTORY.
WHICH MEANS?
ULTRON JUST REPEATED WHAT HAD ALREADY BEEN DONE.

NO ORIGINALITY.
NO IMAGINATION.
SO PLAN B--
--IS SOMEONE ELSE'S PLAN B, BUT WHOSE?
9, CAN YOU LOCATE ULTRON'S CENTRAL CORE?


NOT WITHOUT TRYING TO ENGAGE ITS DIANODE PROCESSORS, WHICH WOULD PROVOKE A FATAL ERROR.
OBSERVATION: THERE WAS AN UNIDENTIFIABLE ENERGY PULSE JUST BEFORE THE GRID POWER TERMINATIONS.

CAN YOU LOCATE THAT?
YES.
WHERE?

HURRAGGHH!
KTANG
KTANG
KTANG
KTANG
FSHAM